

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. LIBYAN ENVOY URGES CLOSER TIES

IN A PERSONAL INITIATIVE, LIBYA'S AMBASSADOR TO SYRIA
APPROACHED AMBASSADOR MURPHY TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT THE
DRIFT OF US-LIBYAN RELATIONS AND TO URGE US TO NAME AN AMBAS
SADOR TO TRIPOLI. HE SAID QADHAFI SEEMED GENUINELY INTER-
ESTED IN IMPROVED TIES, BUT WAS UPSET THAT THE US HAD
FAILED TO REPLY TO LIBYAN OVERTURES, INCLUDING TWO OCCA-
SIONS WHEN CANDIDATES HAD BEEN NAMED TO REPRESENT LIBYA AT
THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL IN WASHINGTON. (CONFIDENTIAL)
DAMASCUS 51, 1/4.)
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2. BITSIOS HINTS GREECE EDGING BACK TO NATO

FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS HAS INFORMED AMBASSADOR KUBISCH
THAT GREECE WILL REPLY FORMALLY IN MID-JANUARY TO THE OUT-
STANDING QUESTIONS CONCERNING ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO.
HE SAID THE RESPONSE, WHICH HAS BEEN APPROVED BY CARAMANLIS

AND THE "RESTRICTED CABINET," WOULD MOVE GREECE CLOSER TO REINTEGRATION AND WOULD REFLECT THE "SUGGESTIONS" RECENTLY PROFFERED BY GENERAL HAIG.

BITSIOS ALSO TOOK OCCASION TO COMPLAIN ABOUT SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS' RECENT PUBLIC REMARKS ABOUT GREEK-TURKISH DIFFERENCES, WHICH HE SAID HAD THE EFFECT OF "COMPOUNDING ALL OUR PROBLEMS." (CONFIDENTIAL) ATHENS 81 (EXDIS), 1/4.)

3. PERU'S MORALES BERMUDEZ SETS CONCILIATORY TONE

EMBASSY LIMA REPORTS THAT, IN A YEAR-END PRESS CONFERENCE, PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ:

--DEFENDED HIS PURCHASE OF SOVIET MILITARY AIRCRAFT AS NECESSITATED BY "MINIMUM NATIONAL SECURITY REQUIREMENTS;"

--INSISTED THAT "AT THIS TIME" PERU HAS NO "STRATEGIC PLAN OF AGGRESSION TOWARD ANY COUNTRY;" AND

--MAINTAINED THAT PERU WELCOMES FURTHER DIALOGUE ON THE BOLIVIAN CORRIDOR, DESPITE CHILE'S REJECTION OF THE PERUVIAN PROPOSAL.

EMBASSY COMMENT: IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE ANOTHER TENSION-REDUCING GESTURE, MORALES BERMUDEZ EXCHANGED UNUSUALLY EFFUSIVE NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS WITH THE CHILEAN AND ECUADOREAN HEADS OF STATE. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) LIMA 43, CONFIDENTIAL

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4. INDONESIA SADLY REVIEWS OPEC MEETING

MINES MINISTER SADLI TOLD AMBASSADOR NEWSOM ON JANUARY 3 THAT HE WAS UNHAPPY THAT "MODERATES" HAD NOT HAD A GREATER VOICE AT THE OPEC MINISTERIAL. SADLI IS HOPEFUL THAT THE WORLD MARKET CAN ABSORB INDONESIA'S OIL PRICE INCREASE OF 7.5 PERCENT, BUT DOES NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A VOLUME AND PRICE WAR AMONG OPEC MEMBERS SHOULD DEMAND PROVE THIN. REGARDING THE DOHA MEETING, HE SAID THAT:

--INDONESIA AND VENEZUELA HAD FAVORED MODERATE PRICE INCREASES, BUT WERE UNABLE TO HOLD THE LINE AGAINST MORE HAWKISH MEMBERS AFTER SHEIKH YAMANI'S OPENING GAMBIT.

--THE DECISION TO INCREASE PRICES BY 10-15 PERCENT WAS BASED ON AN ESTIMATE OF WHAT THE MARKET COULD BEAR,

NOT ON THE RATE OF INFLATION IN IMPORTED GOODS.

--INDONESIA IS NOT STRONGLY COMMITTED TO THE 5 PERCENT INCREASE IN JULY.

--THE US POSITION HAD INFLUENCED INDONESIA, VENEZUELA, AND THE UAE, BUT HAD NO EFFECT ON THE IRANIANS AND OTHER PRICE HAWKS.

SADLI ALSO SAID THE OPEC MINISTERS, AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION, HAD AGREED TO HOLD THEIR JULY MEETING IN STOCKHOLM, BUT ADDED THAT THE SWEDES HAVE NOT YET BEEN INFORMED. (CONFIDENTIAL) JAKARTA 144, 1/4.)

5. ALGERIA: STONEWALLING ON THE SAHARA

ALGERIA IS CONTINUING ITS HARD LINE ON ITS SAHARA DISPUTE
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WITH MOROCCO, AND IS TRYING TO DAMPEN SPECULATION THAT IT COULD BE RESOLVED WITHOUT THE NEED FOR A SPECIAL SUMMIT MEETING OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU). EMBASSY ALGIERS REPORTS THAT THE GOA HAS NOW:

--INFORMED UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM THAT IT REJECTED SAUDI ARABIA'S OFFER TO MEDIATE THE DISPUTE;
AND

--REPORTEDLY ISSUED A STRONG DENIAL OF RUMORS THAT PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENNE WOULD MEET WITH KING HASSAN TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WHETHER OUT OF EMOTIONALISM OR AN ASSESSMENT THAT THE TIME IS NOT YET RIPE FOR SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS, THE ALGERIANS HAVE GONE BACK TO SQUARE ONE AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO INSIST ON A SPECIAL SUMMIT OF THE OAU. (CONFIDENTIAL) ALGIERS 21, 1/4.)

6. CZECHOSLOVAKIA REAPS REWARDS OF LOYALTY

REVIEWING THE STATE OF CZECHO-SOVIET RELATIONS, EMBASSY PRAGUE NOTES THAT:

--DESPITE (OR PERHAPS BECAUSE OF) ITS STEADFAST ADHERENCE TO THE SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY LINE, CZECHOSLOVAKIA SEEMS TO GET LESS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND INTERNAL LEEWAY THAN ITS MORE RECALCITRANT WARSAW PACT COHORTS.

--HUSAK APPEARS TO HAVE THE KREMLIN'S CONFIDENCE TO THE EXTENT THAT HE IS ALMOST IGNORED AS THE USSR TRIES

TO DEAL WITH ITS MORE RAMBUNCTIOUS CHARGES.

--BILATERAL TERMS OF TRADE APPEAR TO BE WORSENING FOR
THE CZECHS.

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THE EMBASSY CONCLUDES THAT, DESPITE THE LACK OF SOVIET
REWARDS FOR CZECH GOOD BEHAVIOR, PRAGUE WILL CONTINUE TO
HOPE THAT ITS EXTREME LOYALTY WILL EVENTUALLY PAY OFF.

(CONFIDENTIAL) PRAGUE 13, 1/4.)

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